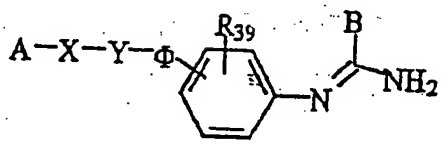
In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 13. (cancelled)

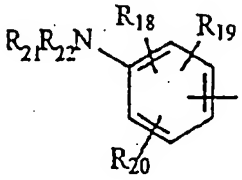
Claim 14 (currently amended) A compound of general formula (I')



(I')

wherein

A is



R_{18}, R_{19} and R_{20} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, -OH, SR_{23}, alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenyl of up to 6 carbon atoms and $-NR_{24}R_{25}$, R_{21} and R_{22} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~or R_{21} and R_{22} form together with the nitrogen atom an optionally substituted heterocycle having 4 to 7 members and 1 to 3 heteroatoms including the already present nitrogen atom, the additional heteroatoms being independently selected from the group consisting of O, N and S,~~ or furthermore R_{21} is

selected from the group consisting of alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfoxide and alkylcarbonyl and then R_{22} is hydrogen, R_{23} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, R_{24} and R_{25} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, OH, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms and -CO-R_{26}, R_{26} is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

B is selected from the group consisting of alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, -$NR_{34}R_{35}$, carbocyclic or heterocyclic aryl with 5 or 6 members containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of O, S and N, the aryl radical being optionally substituted by at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms and alkenyl of up to 6 carbon atoms,

R_{34} and R_{35} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or R_{34} and R_{35} form together with the nitrogen atom a non-aromatic heterocycle with five to six members, each of the elements of the chain being selected from the group consisting of -CH_2-, -NH-, -O- and -S-,

X is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -$(CH_2)_m$-, -$(CH_2)_m$-CO-, -O-$(CH_2)_m$-, -S-$(CH_2)_m$-, -NR_{36}-$(CH_2)_m$-, -CO-NR_{36}-, -O-$(CH_2)_m$-CO-, -S-$(CH_2)_m$-CO-, -NR_{36}-$(CH_2)_m$-CO-, -$(CH_2)_m$-C(OH)(CH_3)-CO-, -CH=CH and -CH=N-,

Y is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -$(CH_2)_n$- and -$(CH_2)_r$-Q-$(CH_2)_s$-,

Q is selected from the group consisting of piperazine, homopiperazine, 2-methylpiperazine, 2,5-dimethylpiperazine, piperidine, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine, pyrrolidine, azetidine, thiazolidine and a saturated carbon ring having 3 to 7 members,

Φ is selected from the group consisting of a bond, $-(CH_2)_p-O-(CH_2)_q-$, $-(CH_2)_p-S-(CH_2)_q-$, $-(CH_2)_p-NR_{37}-(CH_2)_q-$, $-(CH_2)_p-CO-NR_{37}-(CH_2)_q-$, and $-CO(CH_2)_p-NR_{37}-(CH_2)_q-$,

R_{36} and R_{37} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms and $-CO-R_{38}$, R_{38} is alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R_{39} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

m, n, p, q, r and s are independently integers from 0 to 6,

and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A compound of claim 14 wherein R_{18}, R_{19} and R_{20} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, OH and alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, R_{21} and R_{22} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~or R_{21} and R_{22} form together with the nitrogen atom an optionally substituted heterocycle having 4 to 7 members and 1 to 3 heteroatoms including the already present nitrogen atom, the additional heteroatoms~~

~~being independently selected from the group consisting of O, N and S,~~ or R_{21} is alkylsulfonyl or alkylcarbonyl and R_{22} is hydrogen,

B is selected from the group consisting of alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, carbocyclic or heterocyclic aryl with 5 or 6 members containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, the aryl radical being optionally substituted by at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms and alkenyl of up to 6 carbon atoms,

X is selected from the group consisting of a bond or $-(CH_2)_m-$, $-(CH_2)_m-CO$, $-O-(CH_2)_m-$, $-S-(CH_2)_m-$, $-NR_{36}-(CH_2)_m-$, $-CO-NR_{36}-$, $-O-(CH_2)_m-CO-$, $-S-(CH_2)_m-CO-$, $-NR_{36}-(CH_2)_m-CO-$ and $-(CH_2)_m-C(OH)(CH_3)-CO-$,

Y is selected from the group consisting of a bond, $-(CH_2)_n-$ and $-(CH_2)_r-Q-(CH_2)_s-$,

Q is selected from the group consisting of piperazine, piperidine, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine, azetidine, thiazolidine and a saturated carbon ring having 3 to 7 members,

Φ is a bond or $-(CH_2)_p-O-(CH_2)_q-$,

R_{36} and R_{37} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms and $-CO-R_{38}$ in which R_{38} is alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

R_{39} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl and alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

m, n, p, q, r and s are independently integers from 0 to 6;

and a salt thereof.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A compound of claim 14, wherein B is selected from the group consisting of thiophene, furan, pyrrole and thiazole.

Claim 17 (previously presented) A compound of claim 16 wherein B is thiophene.

Claim 18 (previously presented) A compound of claim 14 wherein R_{21} is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms and R_{22} is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 19 (previously presented) A compound of claim 14 wherein R_{39} is hydrogen.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A compound of claim 14 selected from the group consisting of

- 2-amino-N-(4-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}phenethyl)-5-methoxybenzamide;

- 5-amino-N-(4-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}phenethyl)-2-hydroxybenzamide;

- 4-(4-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}phenyl)-N-{4-[(methylsulphonyl)amino]phenyl}butanamide;

- 4-(4-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}phenyl)-N-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]butanamide;

- 5-(4-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}phenyl)-N-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]pentanamide;

- (*4R*)-2-(3-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}-phenyl)-N-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-1,3-thiazolidine-4-carboxamide;

- *tert*-butyl 3-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}benzyl{3-[4-(dimethylamino)anilino]-3-oxopropyl}carbamate;

- 3-[(3-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}-benzyl)amino]-N-[4-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)phenyl]propanamide;

- 3-[(3-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}-benzyl)amino]-N-[4-(4-morpholinyl)phenyl]propanamide;

- N'-[4-(2-{[5-(dimethylamino)-2-hydroxybenzyl]amino}ethyl)phenyl]-2-thiophenecarboximidamide;

- N-(4-{[(4-{[amino(2-thienyl)methylidene]amino}phenethyl)-amino]methyl}phenyl)acetamide;

- N'-[4-(2-{[5-(dimethylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzyl]amino}-ethyl)phenyl]-2-thiophenecarboximidamide;

- N'-{4-[2-({[4-(dimethylamino)anilino]carbonyl}amino)-ethyl]phenyl}-2-thiophenecarboximidamide;

- N'-(4-{2-[[5-(dimethylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzyl]-(methyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-thiophenecarboximidamide;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the latter.

Claim 21 (previously presented) A method of inhibiting NO synthase in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 14.

Claim 22 (previously presented) A method of inhibiting lipidic peroxidation in a patient in need thereof comprising administrating to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 14.

Claim 23 (previously presented) A method of inhibiting both NO synthase and lipidic peroxidation in a patient in need thereof comprising administrating to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 14.

Claim 24 (previously presented) A method of treating a neurodegenerative disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administrating to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 14.

Claim 25 (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the neuorodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's chorea, Parkinson's disease, Creutzfeld Jacob disease and amyotrophic laterial sclerosis.